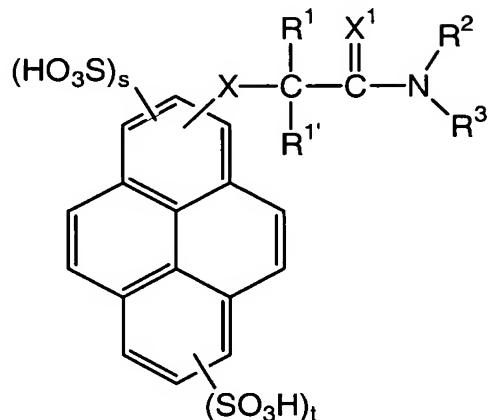


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the formula:



wherein

R¹ and R^{1'} are members independently selected from H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl moieties;

X and X¹ are independently selected from O, NH or S;

s and t are independently selected from the integers from 0 to 3, with the proviso that at least one of s and t is at least 1;

R² is a member selected from H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl;

R³ is a member selected from substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, wherein at least one of R² and R³ is substituted with a member selected from a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive group and a component of a conjugate, and

R² and R³, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound are optionally joined to form a ring which is substituted with a member selected from a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive group and a component of a conjugate,

24 with the proviso that, when R² is H, R³ is a cyclic structure substituted with a
25 member selected from a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive
26 group and a component of a conjugate.

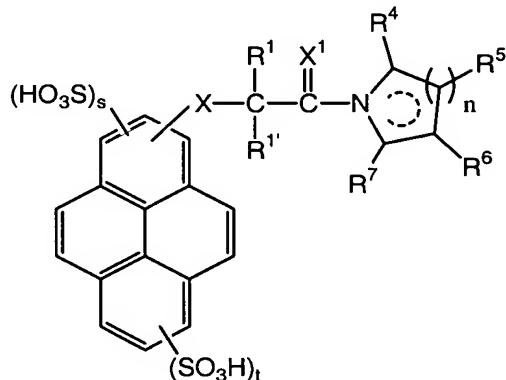
1 2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein X and X¹ are O; R¹
2 and R^{1'} are H; and R² and R³ are members independently selected from substituted
3 or unsubstituted alkyl, with the proviso that at least one of R² and R³ are substituted
4 with a member selected from a reactive group, a moiety substituted with a reactive
5 group and a bond to a component of a conjugate.

1 3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein X and X¹ are O; R¹
2 and R^{1'} are H; and R² and R³, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded
3 are joined to form a ring substituted with a member selected from a reactive group, a
4 moiety substituted with a reactive group and a bond to a component of a conjugate.

1 4. The compound according to claim 1, wherein X and X¹ are O; R¹
2 and R^{1'} are H; R² is H and R³ is a cyclic structure substituted with a member selected
3 from a reactive group, a moiety substituted with a reactive group and a bond to a
4 component of a conjugate.

1 5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein s is 1; and t is 2.

1 6. The compound according to claim 1, having the formula:



2 wherein

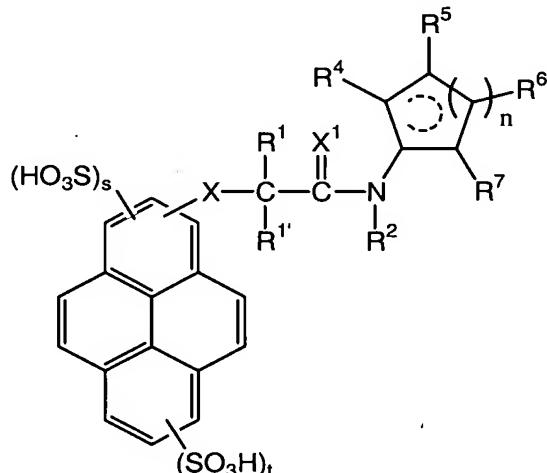
3 4 R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are members independently selected from hydrogen,
5 halogen, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-
6 C₁₈ alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylthio, substituted or unsubstituted

7 aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, sulfo, nitro, carboxyl, substituted or
8 unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ carbamoyl, amino, a reactive group and hydroxyl; and

9 n is 1 or 2.

1 7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein at least one of R⁴,
2 R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ is a carboxyl moiety or an active ester thereof.

1 8. The compound according to claim 1, having the formula:



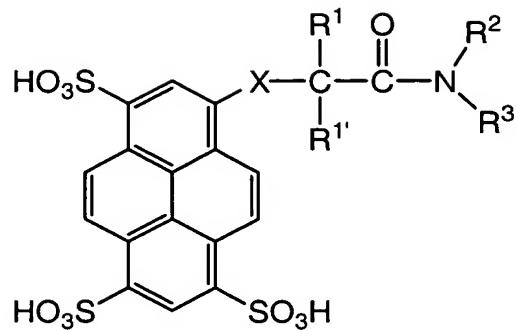
3 wherein

4 R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are members independently selected from hydrogen,
5 halogen, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or
6 unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈
7 alkylthio, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or
8 unsubstituted heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, a reactive group and a
9 bond to a component of a conjugate.

1 9. The compound according to claim 1, wherein said reactive
2 group is a member selected from an acrylamide, an activated ester of a carboxylic
3 acid, an acyl azide, an acyl nitrile, an aldehyde, an alkyl halide, an anhydride, an
4 aniline, an aryl halide, an azide, an aziridine, a boronate, a carboxylic acid, a
5 diazoalkane, a haloacetamide, a halotriazine, a hydrazine a hydrazide, an imido
6 ester, an isocyanate, an isothiocyanate, a maleimide, a phosphoramidite, a reactive
7 platinum complex, a sulfonyl halide, a thiol group, and a photoactivatable group.

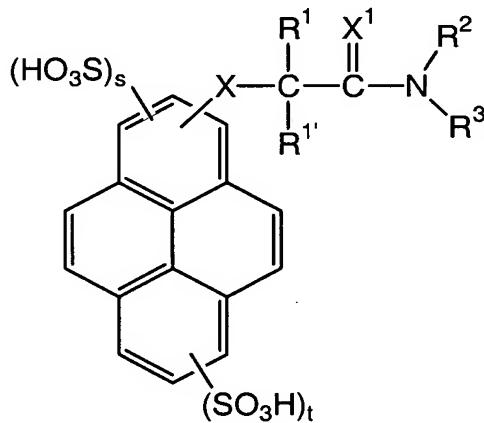
1 10. The compound according to claim 1, having the formula:

2



- 1 11. A fluorescent labeled conjugate comprising:
2 a component which is a member selected from an amino acid, a peptide, a protein, a
3 polysaccharide, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, a nucleic acid, a
4 hapten, a psoralen, a drug, a hormone, a lipid, a lipid assembly, a synthetic polymer,
5 a polymeric microparticle, a biological cell, a virus and combinations thereof
6 covalently bonded to a first fluorescent moiety having the formula:

7



8 wherein

- 9 R¹ and R^{1'} are members independently selected from H, substituted or
10 unsubstituted alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl
11 moieties;
12 X and X¹ are independently selected from O, NH or S;
13 s and t are independently selected from the integers from 0 to 3;
14 R² is a member selected from H, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted
15 or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted
16 heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl;
17 R³ is a member selected from substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or
18 unsubstituted cycloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl,

19 substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl, substituted or
20 unsubstituted aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl,
21 wherein at least one of R² and R³ is substituted with a member selected from
22 a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive group, and a
23 component of a conjugate, and
24 R² and R³, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound are optionally
25 joined to form a ring which is substituted with a member selected from
26 a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive group and a
27 component of a conjugate,
28 with the proviso that, when R² is H, R³ is a cyclic structure substituted with a
29 member selected from a reactive group, a moiety comprising a reactive
30 group, and said component of said conjugate; and
31 with the proviso that at least one member selected from R² and R³ comprises
32 at least one moiety derived from said reactive group by its reaction with
33 a reactive moiety of said component.

1 12. A composition comprising:

- 2 (a) a first conjugate according to claim 11; and
3 (b) a second conjugate, comprising a component covalently bonded to
4 a second fluorophore having a structure different from said first
5 fluorophore.

1 13. The composition according to claim 12, wherein said second
2 fluorophore comprises a moiety that is a member selected from a coumarin, a
3 xanthene, a cyanine, a pyrene, a boropolyazaindacene, an oxazine, and bimane.

1 14. The composition according to claim 13, wherein said second
2 fluorophore comprises a fluorescein moiety.

1 15. The composition according to claim 12, wherein said first
2 component and said second component have different structures.

1 16. The composition according to claim 12, wherein said first
2 component and said second component have are identical structures.

1 17. The composition according to claim 12, wherein said first
2 conjugate is bound to a binding partner for said first component.

1 18. The composition according to claim 12, wherein said second
2 conjugate is bound to a binding partner for said second component.

1 19. A method for detecting an analyte in a sample, said method
2 comprising:

- 3 (a) contacting said sample with a conjugate according to claim 11
4 wherein said component is a binding partner for said analyte;
- 5 (b) incubating said conjugate with said sample for a sufficient
6 amount of time for said analyte and said component to interact,
7 thereby forming a fluorescent analyte; and
- 8 (c) illuminating said fluorescent analyte with an appropriate
9 wavelength whereby the presence of said analyte is determined
10 in said sample.

1 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein further comprising,
2 between steps (b) and (c):

- 3 (d) separating said fluorescent analyte from said sample.

1 21. A method for detecting a first analyte and a second analyte
2 in a sample, said method comprising:

- 3 (a) incubating said sample with a composition according to claim
4 12, wherein said first component is a binding partner for said
5 first analyte and said second component is a binding partner for
6 said second analyte, for a time sufficient for said first analyte to
7 interact with said first conjugate and said second analyte to
8 interact with said second conjugate, thereby forming a
9 fluorescent first analyte and a fluorescent second analyte,
10 respectively;
- 11 (b) illuminating said first fluorescent analyte with an appropriate
12 wavelength whereby the presence of said first analyte is
13 detected in said sample; and

14 (c) illuminating said second fluorescent analyte with an appropriate
15 wavelength whereby the presence of said second analyte is
16 detected in said sample.

1 22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said first fluorescent
2 analyte and said second fluorescent analyte are illuminated with said appropriate
3 wavelength either simultaneously or sequentially.

4 23. A kit for the detection of an analyte in a sample, wherein said kit
5 comprises a compound according to any one of claims 1-10.

6 24. A kit according to claim 23, further comprising a reaction buffer.

7 25. A kit according to claim 24, further comprising instructions on
8 the use of said kit.

1